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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/796,553

03/08/2004

Christopher W. Blackburn

1842.026US1

1086

70648

7590

04/16/2008

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EXAMINER

KRISHNAN, VIVEK V

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2145

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

04/16/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/796,553	Applicant(s) BLACKBURN ET AL.	
	Examiner VIVEK KRISHNAN	Art Unit 2145	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>July 6, 2004 and July 29, 2005</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This is a Non-Final Office Action Correspondence in response to U.S. Application No. 10/796553 filed on March 8, 2004 and claiming the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/452391 filed on March 6, 2006. Claims 1-28 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

3. Claims 1-6, 9-20, and 23-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0163694 A1 to Chen et al. (hereinafter "Chen"), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,198,571 B2 to LeMay et al (hereinafter "LeMay").

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4. Regarding Claims 1 and 15, Chen discloses a method for providing an authentication service and an authentication server hosting an authentication service (hereinafter referenced as the system), said server communicably coupled to the [...] network and operable to: publish the availability of the authentication service on the [...] network (Chen; paragraph 45, discloses publishing the authentication service on the network); receive a request to register with the authentication service from a service provider on the [...] network (Chen; paragraph 53, discloses receiving a request to register with the authentication service from a service provider on the network); and process one or more service requests between the service provider and the authentication service, said service requests conforming to an internetworking protocol (Chen; paragraphs 45, 46, 51, and 52, discloses processing service requests, conforming to networking protocol, between the service provider and the authentication service).

Chen does not explicitly disclose a gaming network. However, LeMay discloses a gaming network system providing an authentication service, the gaming network system comprising:

a service provider communicably coupled to the gaming network (LeMay; Figure 3, discloses a service provider coupled to the gaming network);

at least one gaming machine communicably coupled to the gaming network and operable to request a service from the service provider (LeMay; Figure 3 and column 5 lines 13-31, discloses gaming machines coupled to the gaming network and operable to request a service from the service provider); and

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an authentication server hosting an authentication service [...] (LeMay; Figure 3 and column 5 lines 13-31, an authentication server hosting an authentication service).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply an authentication server hosting an authentication service, as disclosed by Chen, to a gaming network system including a service provider, a gaming machine, and an authentication server, as disclosed by LeMay.

One of ordinary skill in the art the time the invention was made would have been motivated to make this combination in order to provide improved authentication service to a gaming network.

5. Regarding Claims 2 and 16, Chen and LeMay disclose each and every limitation of Claims 1 and 15. Chen and LeMay further disclose wherein the authentication service comprises a web service (Chen; paragraphs 43-45, discloses the authentication service is a web service).

6. Regarding Claims 3 and 17, Chen and LeMay disclose each and every limitation of Claims 2 and 16. Chen and LeMay further disclose wherein the service request is formatted according to a service description language (Chen; paragraphs 43-45, discloses the service request is formatted according to WSDL).

7. Regarding Claims 4 and 18, Chen and LeMay disclose each and every limitation of Claims 3 and 17. Chen and LeMay further disclose wherein the service description language is a Web Services Description Language (WSDL) (Chen; paragraphs 43-45, discloses the service description language is WSDL).

8. Regarding Claims 5 and 19, Chen and LeMay disclose each and every limitation of Claims 2 and 16. Chen and LeMay further disclose wherein the authentication service is registered in a UDDI registry (Chen; paragraphs 43-45, discloses the authentication service is registered in a UDDI registry).

9. Regarding Claims 6 and 20, Chen and LeMay disclose each and every limitation of Claims 2 and 16. Chen and LeMay further disclose further comprising an authentication database and wherein the authentication service accesses the authentication database (Chen; paragraph 88, discloses an authentication database accessed by the authentication service).

10. Regarding Claims 9 and 23, Chen and LeMay disclose each and every limitation of Claims 1 and 15. Chen and LeMay further disclose wherein the authentication service is a local service in the gaming network (Chen; paragraph 48, discloses the Authentication Authority and Authentication Handler as part of the business network Intranet.) (LeMay; Figure 3, discloses the authentication service is a local service in the gaming network).

11. Regarding Claims 10 and 24, Chen and LeMay disclose each and every limitation of Claims 9 and 23. Chen and LeMay further disclose wherein the authentication service is provided at a well known location (Chen; Figure 1 and paragraph 39, discloses providing the authentication service over the Internet).

12. Regarding Claims 11 and 25, Chen and LeMay disclose each and every limitation of Claims 10 and 24. Chen and LeMay further disclose wherein the well known location comprises a TCP/IP address and port (Chen; Figure 1 and paragraphs 39 and 50, discloses using TCP/IP to

communicate over the Internet and thereby discloses that the authentication service is provided at a TCP/IP address and port).

13. Regarding Claims 12 and 26, Chen and LeMay disclose each and every limitation of Claims 10 and 24. Chen and LeMay further disclose wherein the well known location comprises a message queue (Chen; paragraph 39, discloses the well known location comprises a message queue for SMTP).

14. Regarding Claims 13 and 27, Chen and LeMay disclose each and every limitation of Claims 10 and 24. Chen and LeMay further disclose wherein the well known location comprises a file location for performing a file transfer operation (Chen; paragraph 39, discloses the well known location comprises a file location for FTP operations).

15. Regarding Claims 14 and 28, Chen and LeMay disclose each and every limitation of Claims 9 and 23. Chen and LeMay further disclose wherein the authentication service is registered in a local environment for the service (Chen; paragraphs 45-48, discloses registering and running the authentication service at the Authentication Client and Authentication Handler, which are local environments for the authentication service).

16. Claims 7, 8, 21, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen and LeMay as applied to Claims 6 and 20 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0087629 A1 to Juitt et al. (hereinafter "Juitt").

17. Regarding Claims 7 and 21, Chen and LeMay disclose each and every limitation of Claims 6 and 20. Chen and LeMay do not explicitly disclose, however Juitt discloses wherein

the authentication database is accessed using an LDAP protocol (Juitt; paragraph 13, discloses an authentication database accessed by an LDAP authentication server).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify accessing an authentication database, as disclosed by Chen and LeMay, to include accessing an authentication database using LDAP protocol, as disclosed by Juitt.

One of ordinary skill in the art the time the invention was made would have been motivated to make this modification in order to provide well known functional protocol for accessing an authentication database.

18. Regarding Claims 8 and 22, Chen and LeMay disclose each and every limitation of Claims 6 and 20. Chen and LeMay do not explicitly disclose, however Juitt discloses wherein the authentication database is accessed using a RADIUS protocol (Juitt; paragraph 13, discloses an authentication database accessed by an RADIUS authentication server).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify accessing an authentication database, as disclosed by Chen and LeMay, to include accessing an authentication database using RADIUS protocol, as disclosed by Juitt.

One of ordinary skill in the art the time the invention was made would have been motivated to make this modification in order to provide well known functional protocol for accessing an authentication database.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to VIVEK KRISHNAN whose telephone number is (571) 270-

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5009. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Cardone can be reached on (571) 272-3933. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

VK

/Jason D Cardone/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2145